

MINUTES CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP
NEW JERSEY

THIS IS A CONFERENCE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD VIA AUDIO-VIDEO CONFERENCING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022 AT 7:02 P.M.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilmember Kerry J. Coley, East Ward
Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert, West Ward
Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III, At-Large
Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross, At-Large
Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, South Ward
Council President Tency A. Eason, North Ward

Also Present: Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Vincent DeFilippo, Health Officer
Stephanie Flood, Library Director (Arrived at 7:07pm)
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Office
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief
Avram D. White, Esq., Law Department (Arrived at 7:07pm)
Margaret Homere, City Clerk's Office
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk's Office

Absent: Councilmember Adrienne Wooten, At-Large
Laquana Best, Planning Director
Derrick Brown, Fire Chief
Paula Ferreira, Tax Collector
Gracia R. Montilus, City Attorney
Wendy M. Sykes, Director of Community Services
Tamara Robinson, City Clerk's Office

The City Clerk announced a "SPECIAL NOTICE: Please be apprised anyone wishing to discuss Agenda or General Items shall email their statements or questions to citizencomments@orangenj.gov no later than 7:00 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled public meeting. The City Council reserves the right to respond or not respond during the meeting to any citizen's submission."

The City Clerk announced the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:4-9 et. seq., "Sunshine Law" has been met. A notice of this meeting was sent to the Record Transcript, published in the Star Ledger on July 13, 2022, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall, the Council's Website (www.orangetwpnjcc.org), the City's Website (www.ci.orange.nj.us) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

Council President Tency A. Eason called for a Recognition of a Moment of Silence.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**COVID Update**

Health Officer Vincent DeFilippo stated Essex County is rated high for Influenza and the City of Orange is receiving about 15-25 cases per day. Beginning January 2023 primary care physicians will have booster shots available. Residents can go to the website to obtain four at home Covid tests. There has been over 50,000 people in New Jersey hospitalized with the flu. He suggested everyone continue to wear masks. On Saturday, January 21, 2023 from 10am to 12pm and February 16, 2023 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm there will be rabies shots administered in front of City Hall.

Library Update

Library Director Stephanie Flood stated the broken Library's elevator has been repaired, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution to accept the bid from Tremco for \$234,000 to replace the flat roof, a resolution to accept the bid from Carrier for \$92,000 to replace the nonfunctioning air conditioning. The information for both Resolutions has been sent to Administration. On December 7, 2022, the Library hosted the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. The staff is currently reorganizing adult and children's fictional sections, and the newly create EJ (Early Juvenile) section. The entire children's section will follow the Dewey Decimal system. The library recently obtained a free license through the NJ State Library to the North Star Digital Literacy. This is a database that offer free workshops and classes to patrons on multiple types of computer literacy skills and certificates of completion done in person or on-line. Only 85 other libraries in New Jersey were chosen for this. Reference Librarians will take training and keep statistics on this program. This will be for a period of a year. The draft for the 2108 Audit is currently being written and expecting it by the end of the month. The new website is live, and it has the same url which is www.orangepl.org. The library's hours were expanded in November. The hours of operations are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am-5pm, Thursday from 9am-8pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. The library is working with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Workforce 55 program, which has volunteers working 20 hours per week, Monday through Thursday. The library received a check for \$17,738 through NJ State Aid Grant provided by the NJ State Library 2023. The CFO, Nile Clements was very instrumental in getting the information to receive the grant. The Trustees also approved the hiring of a new Librarian that will primarily be responsible for children, teen, and adult programs and updating the website and social media. The position was posted last week and requires a Masters in Library Science. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross inquired about the bids and if the library had the funds to pay for the bids which they do have the funds for the roof. He also inquired about other repairs needed which are the dome and electrical panel which the director anticipates being about \$100,000. The grant was used for the elevator repair and to purchase books. Council Vice President Ross asked the Director to speak to the article in the Local Talk with the headline, How Orange Library missed out on State Library Construction Bond Money. Director Flood could not speak to this because she was not employed with the Orange Library at the time. There a resolution passed by City Council in 2019 stating Dennis Cowell Architects was to apply for Library Construction Bond Act. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk stated the library applied two years in a row and did not receive the grant. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross inquired about the audit as it seems to be affecting getting grants, and there has been no discussions. Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III asked if the City Grant Writers were being utilized which she will reach out to the Business Administrator for more information. Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert asked if the Board of Trustees had a plan to acquire more sponsorships for repairs. This was not discussed with her yet. The ideal staff would be 12 staff members and currently have 9 staff members. The bathrooms are not pretty but are functioning. Director Flood is currently setting up events and one being health issues. Council President Tency A. Eason asked if there are any Historic grant monies to restore the dome which the Director will speak to the Business Administrator about. Council President inquired about friends of the Library and the Director stated she is hoping Karen Wells will help with reviving this. Council President Eason will forward the name of the person who formerly worked on the program. Finance Director Adrian Mapp stated the finance for the repairs must be expended by the City and the award contracts to vendors. The funds will be moved from the Open Space so the work can be done. This will be done by resolution in January 2023. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk stated \$300,000 was encumbered. Under the statue the funds can be used for parks, recreational facilities, acquisition of park land, preservation of historic structures, and library items.

The resolutions and ordinances to be presented at tonight’s meeting are listed on the attached Regular Meeting Agenda. If any Council Member wishes to discuss any resolution or ordinance, it may be discussed at this time.

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

66-2022 An ordinance of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, Essex County, New Jersey, to amend and supplement Chapter 200 of the Code of the City of Orange Township entitled “Vehicles and Traffic”.
(Sponsored by Councilmember Eason)

This Ordinance will be held until January

RESOLUTIONS NO * 487-2022 THROUGH *509-2022

***494-2022** A resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to lien properties and bill property owners and collect reimbursement of expenditures made by the City of Orange Township for the abatement of code violations to bring the property in compliance with the property maintenance code.

Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert recommended the resolution be more specific or give more time. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk explained that efforts are made before issuing a lien.

***501-2022** A resolution amending Resolution #105-2022 to authorize additional attorney fees to be paid to Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLP as special counsel with regard to various legal matters and litigation regarding the City of Orange Township.

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley inquired about this Resolution. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk stated in February 2022 there was a Resolution for Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLP but it needed to be increased.

***502-2022** A resolution approving a final payment of \$37,000.00 to Williams Scotsman Inc. and settlement agreement and release by and between the City of Orange Township and Williams Scotsman Inc. in order to settle the Williams Scotsman Inc. vendor account and prophylactically prevent collection activity, litigation and possible legal exposure to the City of Orange Township.

There was a payment dispute, this was settled and this is the last payment.

***505-2022** A resolution authorizing an agreement with several firms for the purpose of investigating and assessing potential claims arising out of the presence of contaminants in water supply wells affecting the City’s water systems; and to provide representation of City in any civil action that may be filed in the Superior Court of New Jersey and/or United States District Court and any proceeding by writ or appeal related to that action filed on behalf of City’s.


There was a lot of work needed for water treatment.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Approved: January 3, 2023


Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk


Tency A. Eason
Council President